

# Error Analysis of a Simple Quaternion Estimator: the Gaussian Case

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## ABSTRACT

**Gaussian noise is introduced when analyzing the error characteristics of a novel single-frame quaternion estimator, establishing the fourth-order approximate covariance matrix expression to address normalized additive errors. In contrast to the second-order approximations, these expressions not only provide increased precision but also alleviate issues related to singularity. This paper presents a comprehensive derivation of the individual components within the analytical expressions, all conducted within the framework of four-dimensional algebra.**

**Keywords:** Attitude quaternion, fourth-order covariance analysis, Gaussian noise

## 1 Introduction

The performance of attitude estimators for spacecraft is of paramount importance, as it directly impacts the success or failure of missions. This task faces the continuous challenge of increasing noise stemming from various sources, including sensors, environmental factors, and mechanical vibrations. These noises are inevitable and introduce non-negligible errors in the estimation process.

Gaussian noise, commonly referred to as white noise, is a fundamental concept in the fields of statistics and signal processing, permeating various scientific and engineering applications. It represents a form of random variation with a distribution following the classic curve of the Gaussian (normal) distribution. The hallmark of this noise is its zero mean, with the spread of its values determined by the standard deviation. This fundamental concept plays a pivotal role in modern science because it simulates the randomness and uncertainty inherent in many complex processes in both the natural world and technological systems.

Based on the simple pose estimator proposed in [1] and its error analysis, our focus is on the covariance matrix of the estimated error. This is a crucial task because this matrix measures our confidence in the estimate. To address the interference caused by noise, we need to develop more accurate and reliable numerical expressions. When constructing the normalized additive fourth-order approximation covariance matrix, it is assumed that both the measurement and observation vectors are affected by Gaussian noise. This numerical expression is more accurate than the traditional second-order approximation result, while avoiding the trap of mathematical singularities.

## 2 Preliminaries

This section follows [1], the additive quaternion error and bias expression are as follows:

$$\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}} = N_1 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} + N_2 \mathbf{q} \quad (1)$$

$$E\{\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}}\} = \bar{N}_2 \mathbf{q} \quad (2)$$

$$\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}} - E\{\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}}\} = N_1 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} + (N_2 - \bar{N}_2) \mathbf{q} \quad (3)$$

where

$$N_1 = I_4 - \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \quad (4)$$

$$N_2 = \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \quad (5)$$

$$\bar{N}_2 = P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}} + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr}(M P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \quad (6)$$

$$M = I_4 - 3 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \quad (7)$$

The covariance of the normalized quaternion additive error is as follows and the derivation of Eq.(8) is provided in Appendix A :

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}}} = & N_1 P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}} N_1^T - E\{P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} - \frac{1}{2} E\{P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T [\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} I_4]\} \\ & - \frac{1}{2} E\{\operatorname{tr}(M P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}\} - \frac{1}{4} E\{\operatorname{tr}(M P_{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \operatorname{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\ & + E\{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{2} E\{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \operatorname{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\ & + \frac{1}{2} E\{\operatorname{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{4} E\{\operatorname{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \operatorname{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The fourth-order terms in  $P_{\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}}}$  can be written as follows and the derivation of Eq.(9) is also provided in Appendix A:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\widehat{\Delta \mathbf{q}}_{4th}} = & + E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} - 3 E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^3 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{q}^T\} + E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \\ & + \frac{1}{4} E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}})^2 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} - \frac{3}{2} E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 (\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} + \frac{9}{4} E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

## 3 Gaussian noise case

Let  $\mathbf{q} = [q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4]^T$ , and  $\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} = [x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]^T$ ,  $\{x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$  are zero-mean jointly Gaussian random variables and the standard deviation is  $\sigma_{ij}$ :

$$x_i \sim N(0, \sigma_{ij})$$

The joint moment [2] is:

$$E\{x_i x_j x_k x_m\} = E\{x_i x_j\} E\{x_k x_m\} + E\{x_i x_k\} E\{x_j x_m\} + E\{x_i x_m\} E\{x_j x_k\} \quad (10)$$

$$E\{x_i x_j x_k x_m\} = \sigma_{ij}\sigma_{km} + \sigma_{ik}\sigma_{jm} + \sigma_{im}\sigma_{jk} \quad (11)$$

$$E\{x_i^2 x_j x_k\} = \sigma_i^2 \sigma_{jk} + 2\sigma_{ij}\sigma_{ik} \quad (12)$$

$$E\{x_i^2 x_j^2\} = \sigma_i^2 \sigma_j^2 + 2\sigma_{ij}^2 \quad (13)$$

$$E\{x_i^3 x_j\} = 3\sigma_i^2 \sigma_{ij} \quad (14)$$

$$E\{x_i^4\} = 3\sigma_i^4 \quad (15)$$

where  $P_{\Delta\vec{q}} = \frac{1}{|\vec{q}'|^2} P_{\Delta\vec{q}}$  and  $i, j, k, m = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

Then derive a numerical expression for each term in Eq.(9), the proofs of Eqs. (16)-(21) are provided in Appendix B.

There is the expectation matrix for term 1:

$$E\{(\Delta \ddot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 \Delta \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \ddot{\mathbf{q}}^T\} \quad (16)$$

There is the expectation matrix for term 2:

$$-3E\{(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\mathbf{q})^3\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}\mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (17)$$

There is the expectation matrix for term 3:

$$E\{(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}})\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (18)$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 3\sigma_1^4 + \sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{12}^2 & 3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{12} + 3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{12} & 3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{13} + 3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{13} & 3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{14} + 3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{14} \\ + \sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{13}^2 & + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{23} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{23} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{14} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{24} \\ + \sigma_1^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{14}^2 & + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{24} & + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{34} & + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{34} \\ 3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{12} + 3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{12} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{12}^2 + 3\sigma_2^4 & \sigma_1^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{14} \\ + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{23} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{23}^2 & + 3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{23} + 3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{23} & + 3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{24} + 3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{24} \\ + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{24} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{24}^2 & + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{24}\sigma_{34} & + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{34} \\ 3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{13} + 3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{13} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{13}^2 + 3\sigma_3^4 & \sigma_1^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{14} \\ + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{23} & + 3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{23} + 3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{23} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{23}^2 & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{24} \\ + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{34} & + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{24}\sigma_{34} & + \sigma_3^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{34}^2 & + 3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{34} + 3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{34} \\ 3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{14} + 3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{14} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{14} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{14} & \sigma_1^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{14}^2 + 3\sigma_4^4 \\ + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{14} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{24} & + 3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{24} + 3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{24} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{24} & + \sigma_2^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{24}^2 \\ + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{34} & + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{34} & + 3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{34} + 3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{34} & + \sigma_3^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{34}^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T$$

There is the expectation matrix for term 4:

$$\frac{1}{4}E\{(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}})^2\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (19)$$

$$= \frac{1}{4}[3(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 + \sigma_3^2 + \sigma_4^2) + 2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{12}^2 + \sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{13}^2 + \sigma_1^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{14}^2 + \sigma_3^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{32}^2 + \sigma_4^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{42}^2 + \sigma_3^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{34}^2)]\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T$$

There is the expectation matrix for term 5:

$$-\frac{3}{2}E\{(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\mathbf{q})^2(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}})\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (20)$$

$$= -\frac{3}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 3q_1^2\sigma_1^4 + q_1^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{12}^2 + \sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{13}^2 + \sigma_1^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{14}^2) \\ 3q_2^2\sigma_2^4 + q_2^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{12}^2 + \sigma_2^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{23}^2 + \sigma_2^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{24}^2) \\ 6q_1q_2(\sigma_2^2\sigma_{12} + \sigma_1^2\sigma_{12}) + 2q_1q_2(\sigma_3^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{23} + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{24}) \\ 3q_3^2\sigma_3^4 + q_3^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{13}^2 + \sigma_2^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{23}^2 + \sigma_3^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{34}^2) \\ 6q_1q_3(\sigma_3^2\sigma_{13} + \sigma_1^2\sigma_{13}) + 2q_1q_3(\sigma_2^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{23} + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{34}) \\ 6q_2q_3(\sigma_3^2\sigma_{23} + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{23}) + 2q_2q_3(\sigma_1^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13} + \sigma_4^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{24}\sigma_{34}) \\ 3q_4^2\sigma_4^4 + q_4^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{14}^2 + \sigma_2^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{24}^2 + \sigma_3^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{34}^2) \\ 6q_1q_4(\sigma_4^2\sigma_{14} + \sigma_1^2\sigma_{14} + 2q_1q_4(\sigma_2^2\sigma_{14} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{24} + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{14} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{34})) \\ 6q_2q_4(\sigma_4^2\sigma_{24} + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{24}) + 2q_2q_4(\sigma_1^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{14} + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{34}) \\ 6q_3q_4(\sigma_4^2\sigma_{34} + \sigma_3^2\sigma_{34}) + 2q_3q_4(\sigma_1^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{14} + \sigma_2^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{24}) \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T$$

There is the expectation matrix for term 6:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{9}{4} E\{(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \\
= \frac{9}{4} & \left( \begin{array}{l} 3q_1^4\sigma_1^4 + 3q_2^4\sigma_2^4 + 12q_1q_3^3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{12} + 6q_1^2q_2^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\sigma_{12}^2) + 12q_1^3q_2\sigma_1^2\sigma_{12} + 3q_3^4\sigma_3^4 + 12q_1q_3^2\sigma_3^2\sigma_{13} \\ 12q_2q_3^3\sigma_3^2\sigma_{23} + 6q_1^2q_3^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{13}^2) + 6q_2^2q_3^2(\sigma_2^2\sigma_3^2 + 2\sigma_{23}^2) + 12q_1q_2q_3^2(\sigma_3^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{23}) + 12q_1^3q_3\sigma_1^2\sigma_{13} \\ 12q_2^3q_3\sigma_2^2\sigma_{23} + 12q_1q_2^2q_3(\sigma_2^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{23}) + 12q_1^2q_2q_3(\sigma_1^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}) + 3q_4^4\sigma_4^4 + 12q_1q_4^3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{14} \\ 12q_2q_4^3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{24} + 12q_3q_4^3\sigma_4^2\sigma_{34} + 6q_1^2q_4^2(\sigma_1^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{14}^2) + 6q_2^2q_4^2(\sigma_2^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{24}^2) + 12q_1q_2q_4^2(\sigma_4^2\sigma_{12} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{24}) \\ 6q_3^2q_4^2(\sigma_3^2\sigma_4^2 + 2\sigma_{34}^2) + 12q_1q_3q_4^2(\sigma_4^2\sigma_{13} + 2\sigma_{14}\sigma_{34}) + 12q_2q_3q_4^2(\sigma_4^2\sigma_{23} + 2\sigma_{24}\sigma_{34}) + 12q_1^3q_4\sigma_1^2\sigma_{14} \\ 12q_2^3q_4\sigma_2^2\sigma_{24} + 12q_1q_2^2q_4(\sigma_2^2\sigma_{14} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{24}) + 12q_1^2q_2q_4(\sigma_1^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{12}\sigma_{14}) + 12q_3^3q_4\sigma_3^2\sigma_{34} + 12q_1q_3^2q_4(\sigma_3^2\sigma_{14} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{34}) \\ 12q_2q_3^2q_4(\sigma_3^2\sigma_{24} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{34}) + 12q_1^2q_3q_4(\sigma_1^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{13}\sigma_{14}) + 12q_2^2q_3q_4(\sigma_2^2\sigma_{34} + 2\sigma_{23}\sigma_{24}) + 24(\sigma_{12}\sigma_{34} + \sigma_{13}\sigma_{24} + \sigma_{14}\sigma_{23}) \end{array} \right) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

## 4 Conclusion

This paper presents fourth-order approximate covariance matrix expressions pertaining to measurement noise, under the typical assumption of zero-mean white noise for both the body and reference vector. It offers a clear exposition of the specific numerical derivation process and outcomes. Through comparative analysis with Monte Carlo results, it is demonstrated that these expressions provide greater accuracy compared to second-order approximations while mitigating singularity issues. Furthermore, they maintain the positive definiteness of the covariance matrix's characteristic vectors.

## Appendix A Proof of Eqs. (8)-(9)

The proof of Eq.(8), as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} &= E\{(N_1\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} + (N_2 - \bar{N}_2)\mathbf{q})(N_1\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} + (N_2 - \bar{N}_2)\mathbf{q})^T\} \\
&= N_1 P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} N_1^T + E\{(N_2 - \bar{N}_2)\mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T (N_2 - \bar{N}_2)^T\} \\
&= N_1 P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} N_1^T + P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} + \frac{1}{2} P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{4} \text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 - E\{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}\} - \frac{1}{2} E\{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4\} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} E\{[\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} I_4] \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}\} - \frac{1}{4} E\{[\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} I_4] \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4\} - E\{P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} E\{P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T [\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} I_4]\} - \frac{1}{2} E\{\text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}\} + E\{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{4} E\{\text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} + \frac{1}{2} E\{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} E\{\text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{4} E\{\text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\
&= N_1 P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} N_1^T - E\{P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} - \frac{1}{2} E\{P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T [\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} I_4]\} \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2} E\{\text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}\} - \frac{1}{4} E\{\text{tr}(M P_{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}}) I_4 \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\
&\quad + E\{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{2} E\{\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} E\{\text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{4} E\{\text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\}
\end{aligned} \tag{A1}$$

The proof of Eq.(9), as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{\Delta \mathbf{q} 4th} &= +E\{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{2}E\{\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2}E\{\text{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{4}E\{\text{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \text{tr}(M \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T) I_4\} \\
&= +E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} + \frac{1}{2}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} + \frac{1}{2}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\}^T \\
&\quad - \frac{3}{2}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^3 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{q}^T\} - \frac{3}{2}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^3 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{q}^T\}^T + \frac{1}{4}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}})^2 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \\
&\quad - \frac{3}{2}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 (\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} + \frac{9}{4}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \\
&= +E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T\} - 3E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^3 \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \mathbf{q}^T\} + E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{4}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}})^2 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} - \frac{3}{2}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 (\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} + \frac{9}{4}E\{(\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\}
\end{aligned} \tag{A2}$$

## Appendix B Proof of Eqs. (16)-(21)

The proof of Eq.(16), as follows:

$$E\{(\Delta \ddot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 \Delta \ddot{\mathbf{q}} \Delta \ddot{\mathbf{q}}^T\} \quad (B1)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& q_1^2 x_1^4 + q_2^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1^3 x_2 + q_3^2 x_1^2 x_3^2 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1^3 x_3 + 2 q_2 q_3 x_1^2 x_2 x_3 \\
& + q_4^2 x_1^2 x_4^2 + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1^3 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_4 x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_1^2 x_3 x_4 \\
& q_2^2 x_1 x_3^2 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1^2 x_2^2 \\
& + q_1^2 x_1^3 x_2 + q_3^2 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_3 x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1^2 x_2 x_3 \\
& + q_4^2 x_1 x_2 x_4^2 + 2 q_2 q_4 x_1 x_2^2 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_1^2 x_3 x_4 \\
& q_2^2 x_1 x_3^2 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1^2 x_2^2 \\
& + q_2^2 x_2^4 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2^3 \\
& + q_1^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 + q_3^2 x_2^3 x_3^2 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_3 x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1^2 x_2 x_3 \\
& + q_4^2 x_1 x_2 x_4^2 + 2 q_2 q_4 x_1 x_2^2 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& q_3^2 x_1 x_3^3 + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1^2 x_3^2 \\
& + q_2 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + q_1^2 x_1^3 x_3 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + q_2^2 x_2^3 x_3 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_3 x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 \\
& + q_4^2 x_2 x_4^2 + 2 q_2 q_4 x_3^2 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1 x_2^2 x_4 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& q_3^2 x_2 x_3^3 + 2 q_2 q_3 x_2 x_3^2 \\
& + q_1^2 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + q_2^2 x_2^3 x_3 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + q_2^2 x_2^3 x_3 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + q_1^2 x_1^2 x_2 x_3 \\
& + q_2^2 x_2 x_3^2 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 \\
& + q_4^2 x_2 x_3 x_4^2 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_2 x_3^2 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_4 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& q_4^2 x_3 x_4^3 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_3^2 x_4^2 \\
& + q_1^2 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + q_2^2 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + q_1^2 x_1^2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + q_2^2 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + q_4^2 x_4 x_3^2 + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1 x_3^2 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_4 x_1 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& q_4^2 x_2 x_4^3 + 2 q_2 q_4 x_2 x_3 x_4^2 \\
& + q_1^2 x_1 x_2 x_4 x_3 + q_2^2 x_2 x_3 x_4^2 \\
& + 2 q_1 q_4 x_1 x_2 x_4^2 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + q_2^2 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + q_4^2 x_1 x_3 x_4^2 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_1 x_3 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + q_2^2 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \\
& + q_4^2 x_1 x_3 x_4^2 + 2 q_3 q_4 x_1 x_3 x_4 \\
& + 2 q_2 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 + 2 q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4
\end{aligned}$$

The proof of Eq.(17), as follows:

$$-3E\{(\Delta\mathbf{\check{q}}^T\mathbf{q})^3\Delta\mathbf{\check{q}}\mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (B2)$$

The proof of Eq.(18), as follows:

$$E\{(\Delta\ddot{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta\ddot{\mathbf{q}}) \Delta\ddot{\mathbf{q}} \Delta\ddot{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (B3)$$

$$= E \begin{pmatrix} x_1^4 + x_1^2 x_2^2 & x_1 x_2^3 + x_1^3 x_2 & x_1 x_3^3 + x_1^3 x_3 & x_1 x_4^3 + x_1^3 x_4 \\ x_1^2 x_3^2 + x_1^2 x_4^2 & + x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + x_1 x_2 x_4^2 & + x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + x_1 x_3 x_4^2 & + x_1 x_2^2 x_4 + x_1 x_3^2 x_4 \\ x_1 x_2^3 + x_1^3 x_2 & x_2^4 + x_1^2 x_2^2 & x_2 x_3^3 + x_2^3 x_3 & x_2 x_4^3 + x_2^3 x_4 \\ + x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + x_1 x_2 x_4^2 & + x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_2^2 x_4^2 & + x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + x_2 x_3 x_4^2 & + x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + x_2 x_3^2 x_4 \\ x_1 x_3^3 + x_1^3 x_3 & x_2 x_3^3 + x_2^3 x_3 & x_3^4 + x_1^2 x_3^2 & x_3 x_4^3 + x_3^3 x_4 \\ + x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + x_1 x_3 x_4^2 & + x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + x_2 x_3 x_4^2 & + x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_3^2 x_4^2 & + x_1^2 x_3 x_4 + x_2^2 x_3 x_4 \\ x_1 x_4^3 + x_1^3 x_4 & x_2 x_4^3 + x_2^3 x_4 & x_3 x_4^3 + x_3^3 x_4 & x_4^4 + x_1^2 x_4^2 \\ + x_1 x_2^2 x_4 + x_1 x_3^2 x_4 & + x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + x_2 x_3^2 x_4 & + x_1^2 x_3 x_4 + x_2^2 x_3 x_4 & + x_2^2 x_4^2 + x_3^2 x_4^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T$$

The proof of Eq.(19), as follows:

$$\frac{1}{4}E\{(\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}}^T\Delta\check{\mathbf{q}})^2\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T\} \quad (\text{B4})$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} E \{ x_1^4 + x_2^4 + 2x_1^2 x_2^2 + x_3^4 + 2x_1^2 x_3^2 + 2x_2^2 x_3^2 + x_4^4 + 2x_1^2 x_4^2 + 2x_2^2 x_4^2 + 2x_3^2 x_4^2 \} \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T$$

The proof of Eq.(20), as follows:

$$-\frac{3}{2} E \{ (\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^2 (\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \} \quad (\text{B5})$$

$$= -\frac{3}{2} E \left( \begin{array}{l} q_1^2 x_1^4 + q_2^2 x_2^4 + 2q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2^3 + q_1^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 + q_2^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 \\ + 2q_1 q_2 x_1^3 x_2 + q_3^2 x_3^4 + 2q_1 q_3 x_1 x_3^3 + 2q_2 q_3 x_2 x_3^3 + q_1^2 x_1^2 x_3^2 \\ + q_3^2 x_1^2 x_3^2 + q_2^2 x_2^2 x_3^2 + q_3^2 x_2^2 x_3^2 + 2q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 + 2q_1 q_3 x_1^3 x_3 \\ + 2q_2 q_3 x_2^3 x_3 + 2q_1 q_3 x_1 x_2^2 x_3 + 2q_2 q_3 x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + q_4^2 x_4^4 + 2q_1 q_4 x_1 x_4^3 \\ + 2q_2 q_4 x_2 x_4^3 + 2q_3 q_4 x_3 x_4^3 + q_1^2 x_1^2 x_4^2 + q_4^2 x_1^2 x_4^2 + q_2^2 x_2^2 x_4^2 \\ + q_4^2 x_2^2 x_4^2 + 2q_1 q_2 x_1 x_2 x_4^2 + q_3^2 x_3^2 x_4^2 + q_4^2 x_3^2 x_4^2 \\ + 2q_1 q_3 x_1 x_3 x_4^2 + 2q_2 q_3 x_2 x_3 x_4^2 + 2q_1 q_4 x_1^3 x_4 + 2q_2 q_4 x_2^3 x_4 \\ + 2q_1 q_4 x_1 x_2^2 x_4 + 2q_2 q_4 x_1^2 x_2 x_4 + 2q_3 q_4 x_3^3 x_4 + 2q_1 q_4 x_1 x_3^2 x_4 \\ + 2q_2 q_4 x_2 x_3^2 x_4 + 2q_3 q_4 x_1^2 x_3 x_4 + 2q_3 q_4 x_2^2 x_3 x_4 \end{array} \right) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T$$

The proof of Eq.(21), as follows:

$$\frac{9}{4} E \{ (\Delta \check{\mathbf{q}}^T \mathbf{q})^4 \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T \} \quad (\text{B6})$$

$$= \frac{9}{4} E \left( \begin{array}{l} q_1^4 x_1^4 + q_2^4 x_2^4 + 4q_1 q_2^3 x_1 x_2^3 + 6q_1^2 q_2^2 x_1^2 x_2^2 \\ + 4q_1^3 q_2 x_1^3 x_2 + q_3^4 x_3^4 + 4q_1 q_3^3 x_1 x_3^3 + 4q_2 q_3^3 x_2 x_3^3 \\ + 6q_1^2 q_3^2 x_1^2 x_3^2 + 6q_2^2 q_3^2 x_2^2 x_3^2 + 12q_1 q_2 q_3^2 x_1 x_2 x_3^2 \\ + 4q_1^3 q_3 x_1^3 x_3 + 4q_2^3 q_3 x_2^3 x_3 + 12q_1 q_2^2 q_3 x_1 x_2^2 x_3 \\ + 12q_1^2 q_2 q_3 x_1^2 x_2 x_3 + q_4^4 x_4^4 + 4q_1 q_4^3 x_1 x_4^3 + 4q_2 q_4^3 x_2 x_4^3 \\ + 4q_3 q_4^3 x_3 x_4^3 + 6q_1^2 q_4^2 x_1^2 x_4^2 + 6q_2^2 q_4^2 x_2^2 x_4^2 \\ + 12q_1 q_1 q_2 q_4^2 x_1 x_2 x_4^2 + 6q_3 + 6q_3^2 q_4^2 x_3^2 x_4^2 \\ + 12q_1 q_3 q_4^2 x_1 x_3 x_4^2 + 12q_2 q_3 q_4^2 x_2 x_3 x_4^2 + 4q_1^3 q_4 x_1^3 x_4 \\ + 4q_2^3 q_4 x_2 x_4 + 12q_1 q_2^2 q_4 x_1 x_2^2 x_4 + 12q_1^2 q_2 q_4 x_1^2 x_2 x_4 \\ + 4q_3^3 q_4 x_3^3 x_4 + 12q_3 q_3^2 q_4 x_1 x_2^2 x_4 + 12q_2 q_3^2 q_4 x_2 x_3^2 x_4 \\ + 12q_1^2 q_3 q_4 x_1^2 x_3 x_4 + 12q_2^2 q_3 q_4 x_2^2 x_3 x_4 \\ + 24q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \end{array} \right) \mathbf{q} \mathbf{q}^T$$

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